I Claim:

1.   A method for detecting an attempt at manipulatory intervention in a smart card, which comprises the steps of:

using various sensors for detecting abnormal operating states;

sensing an occurrence of an abnormal operating state by some of the sensors; and

activating the sensors with a relatively high degree of sensitivity relative to an overall sensitivity of the sensors as a group after the abnormal operating state has been sensed.

2.   The method according to claim 1, which comprises providing the sensors with different degrees of sensitivity and successively more sensitive sensors are activated after the abnormal operating state has been sensed.

3.   The method according to claim 1, which comprises providing the sensors with sensitivities which can be set at different degrees, and the sensors which are used are successively switched to a higher sensitization state after the abnormal operating state has been sensed.